

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of saving power in a color organic electroluminescent display of the type having color emitting elements with different light emitting efficiencies, comprising the steps of:

- a) providing an organic electroluminescent color display having colored light emitting elements and white light emitting elements;
- b) converting at least a portion of a color digital image to be displayed on the display to a monochrome image; and
- c) displaying the monochrome image portion using only the white light emitting elements.

2. The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the display is in a battery powered device, and further comprising the step of monitoring the power level of the battery, and converting to a power saving mode of operation when the battery power reaches a predetermined level.

3. The method claimed in claim 1, further comprising the steps of: providing a battery saving mode switch on a device that includes the color organic electroluminescent display, and switching to a battery saving mode using the mode switch.

4. The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the step of converting a color digital image to a monochrome digital image comprises combining 5/16, 9/16, and 2/16 of the red, green and blue color signals, respectively.

5. A color organic electroluminescent display, comprising:

- a) a plurality of differently colored light emitting elements having different light emitting efficiencies and white light emitting elements;

b) a digital image processing circuit for converting at least a portion of a color digital image to be displayed on the display to a monochrome image; and

c) means for displaying the monochrome portion of the image using only the white light emitting elements.

6. The display claimed in claim 5, wherein the display is in a battery powered device, and further comprising a power monitor for monitoring the power level of the battery, and a control circuit connected to power monitor for converting the display to a power saving mode of operation when the battery power reaches a predetermined level.

7. The display claimed in claim 5, further comprising a battery saving mode switch connected to the control circuit for switching to a battery saving mode.

8. The display claimed in claim 5, wherein the digital image processing circuit converts a color digital image to a monochrome digital image by combining $5/16$, $9/16$, and $2/16$ of the red, green and blue color signals, respectively.